

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1-3, 10-18, 24-32, and 35-36 to read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) In an arrangement comprising a plurality of agents connected to a network, said plurality of agents including at least one server, at least one buyer agent, and at least one seller agent, a method for calculating ~~commodities-exchange~~ price data, comprising:

receiving at least one request for quote from said buyer agent, wherein said request for quote includes a product specification data set;

transmitting the product specification data set to at least one seller agent;

receiving a price data set from said seller agent, wherein information in said price data set is responsive to the product specification data set; and

~~normalizing said price data set, thereby creating a normalized price data value.~~

receiving metric data from at least one source;

generating a normalized price data value, wherein the normalized price data value is a statistical value calculated by a comparison of a quoted value derived from the price data set to at least one metric value derived from the metric data; and

communicating said normalized price data value to at least one output.

2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising; ~~exposing~~ communicating the normalized price data set value to said buyer agent.

3. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising; providing a browsable display describing at least one ~~commodities-exchange~~ service and features for allowing a buyer agent to provide a request for quote.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the product specification data set includes a delivery date set at a future time.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a buy notice from said buyer agent; and

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transmitting a purchase order to at least one said seller agent.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
receiving a plurality of product specification data sets from at least two buyer agents; and  
combining said plurality of product specification data sets, thereby creating one request  
for quote.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said product specification data set  
includes information related to a buyer, a grade, a quantity, a tally, a method of shipment, and a  
ship date.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the product specification data set  
comprises a plurality of quantity values for a number of like commodity items having different  
size parameters, a description of at least one commodity item, and a description of a delivery  
method.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said price data set includes  
information to identify a seller, a quote price, shipment, and payment terms.

10. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 9, wherein said price data set further  
includes an adjusted price, and an adjusted quantity.

11. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising, receiving an  
additional price data set from the seller agent, wherein the additional price data is a result from a  
renegotiated price.

12. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising, storing the  
normalized price data ~~set~~ value in a database communicatively connected to the server.

13. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein ~~the normalizing step~~  
~~comprises,~~ generating the normalized price data value includes the step of applying a metric  
transform to said price data set to create a normalized price data value.

14. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said product specification  
data set comprises a plurality of quantity values for a number of ~~similar commodity~~ items having

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different size parameters; and wherein the ~~normalizing step comprises~~ generation of the normalized price data value includes:

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- calculating a size total value based on a summation of said ~~commodity~~ size parameters;
- retrieving a price total from one of said price data sets;
- retrieving a metric price data set, wherein said metric price data set comprises a comparable price per unit of one of said ~~commodity~~ items;
- multiplying said comparable price per unit of said metric price data set by said calculated size total value, thereby creating an adjusted market price total; ~~and~~
- calculating a summed market price total by summing one or more adjusted market price totals; and
- comparing said ~~adjusted~~ summed market price total by said price total, thereby creating a normalized price data set value.

15. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 14, wherein comparing said adjusted market price total by said price total, includes determining a ratio by dividing said price total by said adjusted market price total, thereby creating the normalized price data value.

16. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said product specification data set comprises a plurality of quantity values for a number of ~~commodity~~ items, each having different size parameters and type parameters, and wherein the ~~normalizing step comprises~~ generation of the normalized price data value includes:

- for each ~~type of commodity item~~ having similar size parameters and type parameters,
- calculating a size total value based on a summation of said ~~commodity~~ size parameters;
- ~~for each type of commodity item,~~ retrieving a price total from one of said price data sets;
- ~~summing said price total from each type of commodity item, thereby creating a total type price;~~

for each ~~type of commodity~~ item having similar size parameters and type parameters,  
retrieving a metric price data set, wherein said market price data set comprises a comparable  
price per unit of at least one of said ~~commodity~~ items;

~~for each type of commodity item~~, multiplying said comparable price per unit by said size  
total value, thereby creating ~~an a~~ market price total ~~for each type of commodity item~~;

calculating a summed market price total from the summation of one or more said market  
price ~~total of each type of commodity item totals~~; and

comparing said summed market price total by said price total ~~type price~~, thereby creating  
the normalized price data value.

17. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 16, wherein comparing said summed  
market price total by said total type price, includes determining a ratio by dividing said total type  
price by said summed market price total, thereby creating the normalized price data value.

18. (Currently amended) In an arrangement comprising a plurality of computers  
connected to a network, said plurality of computers including at least one server, at least one  
buyer client computer, and a plurality of seller client computers, a method for providing  
~~commodities exchange~~ services, comprising:

providing a browsable display describing at least one ~~commodities exchange~~ service and  
features for allowing a buyer associated with said buyer client computer to provide a request for  
quote;

receiving at least one request for quote from said buyer client computer, wherein said  
request for quote includes a product specification data set;

transmitting said product specification data set to at least one of said plurality of seller  
client computers;

receiving a plurality of price data sets from said plurality of seller client computers,  
wherein said plurality of price data sets are responsive to said product specification data set;

~~normalizing said plurality of price data sets, thereby creating a normalized price data value; and~~

~~transmitting receiving metric data from at least one source;~~

~~generating a normalized price data value, wherein the normalized price data value is a statistical value calculated by a comparison of a quoted value derived from the price data set to at least one metric value derived from the metric data; and~~

~~communicating said normalized price data set for depiction on said buyer client computer.~~

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, further comprising:  
receiving a buy notice from said buyer client computer; and  
transmitting a purchase order to one of said seller computers of said plurality of seller client computers.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 18, further comprising:  
receiving a plurality of product specification data sets from said plurality of buyer client computers; and  
combining said plurality of product specification data sets, thereby creating one request for quote.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein said product specification data set includes information related to a buyer, said request for quote grade, quantity, tally, a method of shipment, and a ship date.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the product specification data set comprises a plurality of quantity values for a number of like commodity items having different size parameters, a description of at least one commodity item, and a description of a delivery method.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein said price data set includes information to identify a seller, a quote price, shipment, and payment terms.

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24. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 23, wherein said price data set further includes an adjusted price; and an adjusted quantity.

25. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 18, further comprising; receiving an additional price data set from the seller client computer, wherein the additional price data is a result from a renegotiated price.

26. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 18, further comprising; storing the normalized price data set value in a database communicatively connected to the server.

27. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 18, wherein the ~~normalizing step~~ comprises generation of the normalized price data value includes applying a metric transform to said price data set to create a normalized price data value.

28. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 18, wherein said product specification data set comprises a plurality of quantity values for a number of ~~similar~~ commodity items having different size parameters; and wherein the ~~normalizing step~~ comprises generation of the normalized price data value includes:

calculating a size total value based on a summation of said commodity size parameters;  
retrieving a price total from one of said price data sets;  
retrieving a metric price data set, wherein said metric price data set comprises a comparable price per unit of one of said commodity items;  
multiplying said comparable price per unit by said calculated size total value, thereby creating an adjusted market price total; ~~and~~  
calculating a summed market price total by summing one or more adjusted market price totals; and  
comparing said ~~adjusted~~ summed market price total by said price total, thereby creating a normalized price data set value.

29. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 28, wherein comparing said adjusted market price total by said price total, includes determining a ratio by dividing said price total by said adjusted market price total, thereby creating the normalized price data value.

30. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 18, wherein said product specification data set comprises a plurality of quantity values for a number of commodity items, each having different size parameters and type parameters, wherein the ~~normalizing step~~ comprises generation of the normalized price data value includes:

for each ~~type of commodity item~~ having similar size parameters and type parameters, calculating a size total value based on a summation of said commodity size parameters;

~~for each type of commodity item, retrieving a price total from one of said price data sets;~~  
~~summing said price total from each type of commodity item, thereby creating a total type price;~~

for each ~~type of commodity item~~ having similar size parameters and type parameters, retrieving a metric price data set, wherein said market price data set comprises a comparable price per unit of at least one of said commodity items;

~~for each type of commodity item, multiplying said comparable price per unit by said size total value, thereby creating an a market price total for each type of commodity item;~~

calculating a summed market price total from the summation of one or more said market price total of each ~~type of commodity item totals~~; and

comparing said summed market price total by said price total ~~type price~~, thereby creating the normalized price data value.

31. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 30, wherein comparing said summed market price total by said total type price, includes determining a ratio by dividing said total type price by said summed market price total, thereby creating the normalized price data value.

32. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for providing ~~commodities exchange~~ services, which, when executed, comprise:

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providing a display describing at least one ~~commodities exchange~~ service on a computing device and features for allowing at least one buyer client computer to provide a request for quote; receiving at least one request for quote from said buyer client computer, wherein the request for quote includes a product specification data set; transmitting the product specification data set to a plurality of seller client computers; receiving a plurality of price data sets from said plurality of seller client computers, wherein said plurality of price data sets are responsive to the product specification data set; ~~normalizing said plurality of price data sets, thereby creating the normalized price data value; and~~ transmitting receiving metric data from at least one source; generating a normalized price data value, wherein the normalized price data value is a statistical value calculated by a comparison of a quoted value derived from the price data set to at least one metric value derived from the metric data; and generating an output of the normalized price data set value for depiction on said buyer client computer.

33. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 32, further comprising the computer-executable instructions of:

receiving a buy notice from said buyer client computer; and  
transmitting a purchase order to one or more of said seller computers of said plurality of seller client computers.

34. (Original) The computer-readable medium of Claim 32, further comprising computer-executable instructions of:

receiving a plurality of product specification data sets from a plurality of buyer client computers; and  
combining said plurality of product specification data sets, thereby creating one request for quote.



35. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 32, further comprising a computer-executable instruction of; receiving an additional price data set from the seller client computer, wherein the additional price data is a result from a renegotiated price.

36. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 32, further comprising a computer-executable instruction of; storing the normalized price data ~~set~~ value in a database communicatively connected to the server.